Releasing watershed development projects

273. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have requested to release 1000 watershed development projects under DPAP and IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many projects are under consideration of Government and by when they will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A NARENDRA): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra to sanction an additional 1000 watershed projects under DPAP to Maharashtra State. New projects under DPAP are sanctioned to the programme States following a criteria that includes DPAP coverage in the State, performance of the ongoing projects, budget availability, etc. Accordingly, during this year 2004-05 a total of 2550 new DPAP projects have been sanctioned to 16 programme Stales out of which Maharashtra was sanctioned 303 projects.

Raising the number of days for employment under NREGS

274. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVEL OPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme provides employment for hundred days in a year per person;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Agriculture Experts have asked Government to raise the number of days for employment under the scheme;